

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
14 April 2005 (14.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/032252 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A01N 3/02, 25/10

(74) Agent: WINCKELS, J., H., F.; Verenigde, Johan de Wit-  
tlaan 7, NL-2517 JR Den Haag (NL).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/NL2004/000502

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 12 July 2004 (12.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: Dutch

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

1023915

14 July 2003 (14.07.2003) NL

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NED-  
ERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST-  
NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK  
TNO [NL/NL]; Schoemakerstraat 97, NL-2628 VK Delft  
(NL).

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): THIJSSEN,  
Henricus, Matheus, Wilhelmus, Maria [NL/NL]; Pa-  
triottenland 4, NL-3994 TT Houten (NL). SLAGHEK,  
Theodoor, Maxmillaan [NL/NL]; Schansweg 35,  
NL-3042 HT Rotterdam (NL). MONTIJN, Roy, Chris-  
tiaan [NL/NL]; Werengouw 9, NL-1024 NL Amsterdam  
(NL). TIMMERMANS, Johannes, Wilhelmus [NL/NL];  
Schoonenburg 188, NL-6714 GG Ede (NL).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: POLYMER MATRIX FOR EXTENDING VASE LIFE OF CUT FLOWERS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a polymer matrix for extending the vase life of cut flowers, which matrix comprises a charged and crosslinked polymer, wherein the matrix, in the presence of water, forms a gel, which gel immobilizes bacteria on the basis of electrostatic interactions between the gel and the bacterial. Further, the invention relates to a gel obtained by contacting the polymer matrix according to the invention with a limited amount of water. Also, the invention relates to an envelope containing a particular amount of the matrix or gel according to the invention. The invention also relates to a care product for cut flowers which comprises the polymer matrix or the gel according to the invention.

WO 2005/032252 A1